
Water Column

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE 10

Western Australian Underwater Photographic Society's Bi-annual Underwater Journal



Tonga

Sumbawa

Key Biscayne

**CREATURE FEATURE:
Floating in the Blue
Cervantes Weekend**

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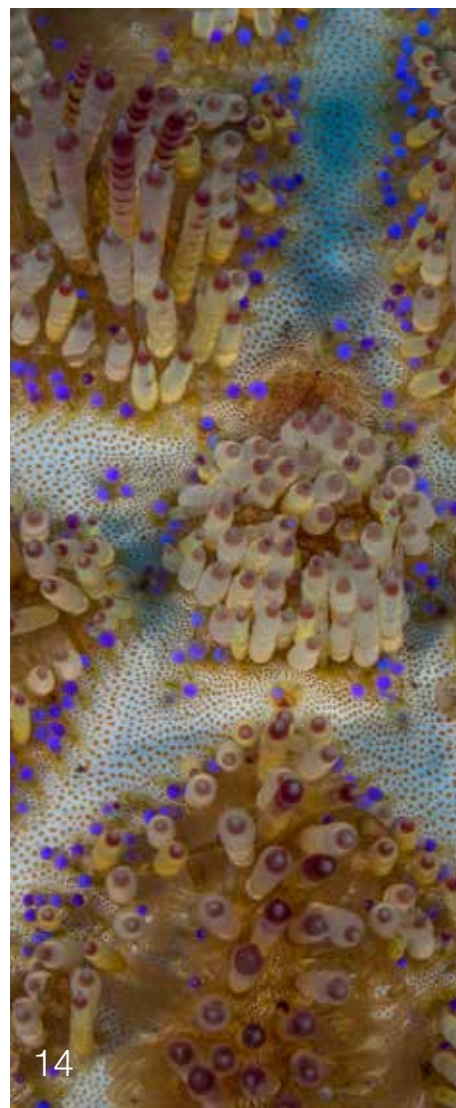
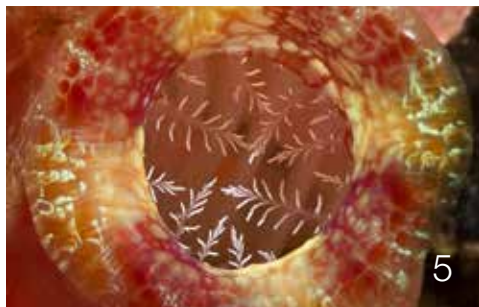


Unique, ocean inspired,
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by Bill Meiklejohn.

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Cover by Isla Cath - Short-Headed Seahorse, part of Isla's winning 2017 Novice Portfolio

EDITOR'S BUBBLES

Howdy Members,

Season's Greetings everyone. Most of you will be back at work by now, some still recovering from the Christmas excesses like me ;-). Maybe some of you got some new dive kit or photographic gear from Santa.

In October various club members manned a photography information desk for the 'We Love Diving Annual Open Day' at Dolphin Scuba in Welshpool. Guest speaker was Shannon Conway, who gave a presentation on the Ship's Graveyard off Rottnest. In December, WAUPS wound up 2017 with a dive at the Grain Terminal, followed by a BBQ. Thanks to Joanne we were very well fed at that after-dive Christmas feast.

On the photography side there are some great competitions that the WAPF are running throughout 2018. Open now and with the theme "We Are Australian" In My View also covers writers, be that a story in prose or poetry. Closing in March the ClickWest Photography

Competition has four categories – Landscape, Monochromatic, Portraiture and Closeup. PrintWest opens in June with two categories - Monochromatic and Colour. Running now and closing 1st April is the WA Coastline Photo Competition. Showcasing our vast coastline the image must include a person or persons. All of the finalists images will be displayed at the WA Maritime Museum.

Congratulations to the winners of our latest competitions. The 2017 Novice Portfolio winner was Isla Cath, the overall winner of Pixels for 2017 was Bert de Wit. And the Golden Snapper Award also went to Bert de Wit. Hope that tiara fits well! Thank you to the sponsors who graciously support our own club run photography competitions. Please do ensure your membership is current so you can enter all these photographic competitions.

If you happen to know of anyone who you think would be interested in being a future guest speaker please let us know. We are very grateful

to all our guest speakers and club members who put on our monthly presentations. Our sincere thanks to the external judges we use for all our competitions, the members behind the scenes who help where needed to ensure club meetings and outings run as smoothly as possible. All club member efforts go towards the annual Golden Snapper Award.

Now it's truly summer and we're all diving regularly do think about doing an article for your club magazine. Any outing, dive trip or pictures you might have that you think would be of interest to others are gratefully accepted. On the home front the WAUPS webpage is undergoing a revamp so new material will soon appear on there. You may also have noticed that WAUPS has been set up with a new group on Facebook, and on top of that a WAUPS_club Instagram account has been activated.

Keep blowin' bubbles,

Viv

OZTek

OZTek's next dive exhibition, travel show and diving conference will be on 16 & 17 March in 2019. Held at Sydney's International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour, this event covers all aspects of technical and recreational diving, equipment, dive training, interstate and overseas travel destinations, and underwater photography.

Along with the exhibitions, presentations, seminars and workshops the top images from the bi-annual OZTek Underwater Photographic Competition, plus the 2018 Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year Competition, will be on display. The latter will also be exhibited in each Australian capital city at this year's Ocean Film Festival. For Perth that will be on the 13-16th of March.

Last year Ross Gudgeon came third in the inaugural Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year Competition. In the images that made the first round with the judges in both of the competitions I saw other familiar names – Chris Holman, Peter Nicholas, Neil Vincent, to name a few. Winning images can be viewed on the OZTek website or www.facebook.com/OZTekPhoto



Sumbawa

Indonesia, November 2017
by Maryann Evetts

I have enjoyed this trip three times since 2013 with Jeff and Dawn Mullins. It is my favourite dive trip in and around the Flores Islands in Indonesia because it offers lots of muck diving, critter diving in around Sangeang Island to woo hoo! blue water diving with sharks, mantas and huge schools of fish. It is a one-way trip, from Bima to Labuan Bago or vice versa.



Top to bottom:
Clam and Soft Coral abstract
Coleman shrimp on a fire urchin in Bima Harbour
Frogfish at Hot Rocks, Sangeang Island



Bima Harbour has a couple of extraordinary dive sites with one metre high soft coral 'trees' growing out of the sand with all sorts of creatures within; mimic octopus, fire urchins with Coleman shrimps and crabs living on them and LOTS of nudis. The viz is not wonderful as it is in the harbour of a busy port centre.

Sangeang Island is an active volcano, with hot water bubbling up in many places, but despite this there was a big mustard coloured frogfish tucked under a black coral tree, dragon nudis everywhere and huge schools of fish amongst the vibrant reef.

Komodo offers the best blue water diving where you can see schools of sharks parading around Castle Rock, wonderful encounters with Mantas and be blown away by the variety and number of fish from giant trevally to surgeons and spotted eagle rays. Batu Bolong is an exciting dive usually surrounded by strong currents. This time though, the currents were slack and we explored the sides rarely seen.



Top to bottom:
Tarata liveaboard
Crocodile Fish at Penga Kecil
Gorilla nudibranch (Adam's Bornella) with
commensal shrimp at Sangeang Island

We visited Siapa Besar where turtles come to sleep. They are in an acute state of torpor, snoozing on the plate corals and oblivious of us. A most unexpected sight giving great opportunities for videos and photographs.

The highlight of the trip was waiting at sunset with a glass of wine for thousands of bats which erupt from the mangroves to forage and wreak havoc on the mainland. I'm sure it wasn't the wine that made it so memorable.

The Komodo Islands are of course famous for the Komodo Dragons. You can visit the National Park Headquarters and see the huge sleeping monsters under the houses but the best place to see them is to travel to Cannibal Rock which is off Rinca Island. The dragons come down to the beach to forage and the crew can be persuaded to take you over to get close-up and personal to them when they are actively hunting. Heart stoppingly fast when they want to be.

Check out who was on the trip with me and my sister Tish and brother-in-law Ned!



Clockwise from top:

Fluorescent Chelidonuria

Tarata crew and guests

Komodo Dragon on the beach at Rinca Island

Breeding crabs on Fire Urchin in Bima Harbour

Wunderpus in Bima Harbour

Pygmy Cuttlefish at Pink Beach



FLOATING IN THE BLUE



There is a bizarre collection of marine creatures that float on the surface of the sea. They usually spend their lives many kilometres out from shore, but stormy, windy days can wash them up on beaches, especially in winter time. I particularly enjoy fossicking on beaches after wild weather for these unusual animals.

One of the best known 'floaters' is the Bluebottle, *Physalia utriculus*. It is sometimes called a jellyfish, but in fact is a close relative, a kind of Hydrozoan called a Siphonophore. This curious animal is a spectacular bright blue and consists of a gas-filled float up to 10 cm long with a colony of polyps underneath it. Within this colony, polyps are specialised for four different functions; feeding, defence, reproduction and making gas for the float. Some colonies have floats aligned 45° left of the wind and others 45° to the right, which is thought to prevent all colonies drifting to the same location and getting stranded together. The float catches the wind and the colony is blown along the sea surface with its single long stinging (fishing) tentacle trailing behind which can extend 2 to 3 metres. Once the fish or crustacean prey is caught, the tentacle retracts up under the float towards the feeding polyps. This stinging tentacle has a beaded appearance and bears numerous nematocysts that can inflict extremely painful stings on people. Be careful even if handling beach-washed specimens as dried tentacles can sometimes sting. Bluebottles are found all around Australia, including Tasmania.



Top and above: *Physalia utriculus*. Images by Sue Morrison.

The larger, more dangerous Portuguese man o'war, *Physalia physalis*, occurs in Atlantic waters. It has a float up to 30 cm long and numerous stinging tentacles that can extend up to 30 metres. Stings from this species are very severe and have caused fatalities.

There is also a large Pacific man o'war, *Physalia* sp., with 7 or 8 stinging tentacles that can stretch up to 10 m, but identification of the species is unclear at present. It is uncommon in Australian waters.

Two closely related Hydrozoan species (Hydroids), By-the-wind-sailor, *Velella velella*, and Porpita sailor or Blue button, *Porpita porpita*, are often found washed up with Bluebottles. They are also colonies of bright blue polyps, but much smaller, only up to 4 cm diameter. By-the-wind-sailor has an oval disc with gas-filled tubes that make it buoyant and a thin, triangular rigid 'sail' on top. Underneath is a fringe of short feeding tentacles about 1 cm long, surrounding



Clockwise from top left:
Porpita porpita, *Porpita porpita*,
Velella velella, *Velella velella*,
Janthina janthina, *Janthina janthina*,
Janthina janthina, *Physalia utriculus*,
Janthina janthina.

All images by Sue Morrison.



reproductive structures and a central mouth. *Porpita* sailor has a hard brown disc with gas filled tubes and a fringe of branched tentacles around the margin, but it lacks a sail.

A few mollusc species also have a pelagic lifestyle. Two examples are the Little sea lizard, *Glaucus marginatus*, and the Violet snail, *Janthina janthina*. Little sea lizards are specialised nudibranchs that are buoyant and float upside down at the sea surface. They are shades of blue and silver, and have 3 clusters of long dark blue cerata on each side of the body. They feed on Bluebottles and other floating species. The Violet Snail has a delicate shell up to 3 cm high, a low left-hand spiral and no operculum. Both the shell and snail are a lovely violet colour. The large head has a flexible neck that can swing from side to side. The foot secretes a bubble raft by trapping air bubbles in mucus which then hardens. These carnivorous snails feed on Bluebottles, By-the-wind-sailor and *Porpita* sailor.

Glaucus atlanticus (left) and *Glaucus margin* (right) are both recorded on the east coast of Australia and recently recorded from Albany, WA. Wikimedia Commons.





The Key Biscayne rig

by Viv Matson-Larkin

In 1973 the Key Biscayne drilling rig was under tow from Darwin to Cockburn Sound for maintenance when inclement conditions began to cause serious issues as it neared Lancelin. With tow-lines to the support vessels parting continuously and gale force winds, a large swell and rough seas buffeting the rig, sometime during the night of the 1st of September it sank. Fortunately with no loss of life or injury as all 52 crew had been evacuated earlier on that day.

Located out to sea 19 kilometres north-west of Ledge Point the wreck is lying upside down in 42 metres of water. The shallowest part of the structure is around 26 metres. On the sea floor three triangular 'A' shaped truss legs, each over 100 metres in length, provide great swim-throughs. There are usually some resident Grey Nurse sharks hanging around the end of those. It's a great sight watching these magnificent creatures cruise by. I can just image them saying 'bah, humbug, the tourists are back' ;-)





Opposite page: Wobbegong shark, Dhufish.

This page: Western Rock Lobster, Batfish, Banded Sweep.

Images by Viv Matson-Larkin



The marine-life is so abundant around this wreck – Samson fish, dhufish, snapper, trevally, various types of wrasse, red-lipped morwong, batfish, schools of football sweepers, so many damsels, lionfish, wobbegongs, Port Jackson sharks and stingrays, to name a few. The wreckage also supports incredible sessile life – numerous sea fans, ascidians, colourful sponges, basket stars curled around the black corals, anemones, various types of soft and hard corals. Even if you are not into photography a torch is a must to bring out the various colours at this depth. Some divers are on the hunt for western rock lobster which are abundant near the jack-up arms.

It's a short dive time-wise, even on nitrox, due to the depth so I rarely have time to take images of the invertebrates before the dive computer is urging ascent. After a nice lunch and long surface interval you can't wait to get back down there. On one trip out to this spot we saw a few humpback whales breaching on the cruise across to this site. Even had some come quite close to the dive site as we were gearing up. Awesome entertainment!



If you have never dived here before and are keen, do book a berth at the dive shop as early as possible as places fill up fast. It's not often we get the opportunity for a couple of deep dives on this unique artificial reef as the open sea and currents limit when dive charter boats can get out there.

Cervantes Land-Based Photography Weekend Away

8-10 September 2017 by Joanne Watson

Fourteen keen land-based WAUPS photographers headed north on the Friday night to explore the Cervantes environment and to enjoy an evening at the Pinnacles under the Milky Way. Some arrived earlier in the day in time to nab the bottom bunks and to relax with a wine while others had to make their way up from Perth after work and in the twilight.

We all arrived safely to enjoy a relaxed and fun-filled evening gathered in one of the two cabins booked at the local caravan park. Some took advantage of the lovely weather to sit outside under the patio for that evening after our meal while others ventured out and into the community in search of fine dining. It can be safely said that several photographers found dining out venues not far from 'home' and reported on a variety of culinary experiences to the cabin-bound folk on their return.

That evening also saw Saturday plans discussed, camera batteries put on charge, lenses inspected/selected and transport arrangements nussed out for car pooling purposes. We were up reasonably early on Saturday morning prepped for the day ahead which would

include lunch on the road. Both cabins bustled with activity in the early morning light as the adventurers ate, abluted, packed cars and double checked camera gear before setting off in several small groups with various destinations highlighted. We all agreed to meet back at the cabins before 4pm and in time to pack and set off again for the astro experience anticipated at the Pinnacles.

Pat, Tammy, Amanda and I set off on an orchid hunt within a decent radius of the caravan park. Recent plentiful rains had transformed the area's dry landscape into lush rolling green views. Gorgeous canola crops created the landscape photographer's ideal image and time was spent trying to get the best shot. My time was more spent getting the best shot of my buddies getting their best shot - very entertaining. Efforts were rewarded as we all encountered and photographed a variety of lovely orchids and other natives which took our fancy. Lunch on the road was consumed with relish and enthusiasm before heading out again to finish the daylight part of the adventure.



Groups convened back at the cabins with stories of finds, encounters with territorial European bees, Kangaroo ticks and cave exploring. Cars were again loaded with camera gear appropriate for astro photography, warm clothing, torches, chairs and of course our gourmet picnic provided by the club. We arrived at the Pinnacles around 4.30pm to set up on a suitable site which gave us all wonderful views of the structures themselves, great sunset views, and good spots to set up for Milky Way shots and star trails. It was at this point that I encountered the hard bits about taking long exposure photographs at night. Mounting my Canon 60D on my very suitable (but vvvveerrry heavy tripod) in the dark was a little challenging. Tipping the camera into portrait position cranked up the degree of difficulty. Trying to focus in the dark with my glasses on and off (only need them for computer) escalated my sudden feelings of inadequacy and finding anything in the dark without a torch (cos we were all set up for long exposures) sealed it. I need a lot of practice!

However, all that said it was a fabulous evening. The sky was clear with the Milky Way out for all to see, the air was cool but no wind, no biting creatures to add another layer of difficulty and wonderful company, not to mention the excellent lessons given from the more accomplished photographers on achieving good astro images.

Leanne Thompson coordinated the entire weekend and also organised the food. We helped ourselves in the diminishing light to a sumptuous feast - with wine of course. Leanne's efforts earned her many gold stars as the whole event was just fabulous. Hollywood lighting was also available as Rusty Geller brought along his studio lights which, positioned around the structures, provided quite ethereal scenes for us to photograph. A tired but very happy group headed back to the cabins around 10:30 with most heading to bed immediately in readiness for the next day's excursions.

Sunday, after some cleaning, saw us again split up into smaller groups according to interest and need to return to Perth. Our same group headed out Eneabba way to search for the quite rare Queen of Sheba orchid (with a Leanne-tip gleaned from someone in the know). Oh the joy and excitement when the cry went out "Queen of Sheba spotted" by sharp-eyed Amanda Blanksby. There in all her glory was the most beautiful orchid nestled in the undergrowth and surrounded by native foliage. We also located and photographed Bell Sun Orchids, Spider Orchids, Purple Enamel Orchids and the more common Donkey and Cowslip varieties. We had also found the previous day (well Amanda did) the lovely green and black Kangaroo Paw standing in the middle of a man-made firebreak-like path which was quite spectacular.

Feedback from all who came on the trip was very enthusiastic and positive with conversations circulating now on where to for next winter's weekends away.

DIVE T-SHIRT TO BAG

by Tammy Gibbs

If you're like me, you probably buy the obligatory t-shirt each time you go on a dive trip. Mine tend to sit in the back of the cupboard and not get worn as they are often boxy, men's cut styles that don't fit me too well. But I am quite attached to them as they are often the only souvenir I have from my trip, besides my photos. And they often have cool marine designs printed on them.

So what do you do with all these t-shirts that don't get worn and are just taking up space? I've recently up-cycled mine by turning them into bags. With single-use plastic bags to be banned in WA from July 2018, converting your old t-shirts is a great way to increase your stash of shopping bags and help the environment at the same time.

It's super easy and all you need is 10 minutes and a pair of scissors, no sewing needed!

Step 1. Cut off the sleeves. You can keep the seam in place for extra strength.

Step 2. Cut off the neck. Cut both sides of the t-shirt at the same time so they match. You can use a bowl/plate and pen to mark out a cut-line or just cut freehand.

Step 3. Mark the bag base cut-line. Lay your t-shirt flat on a table making sure the side seams are lined up straight. Your bag will stretch once you put stuff in it so I'd suggest drawing a cut-line at least 10-15cms up from the bottom. Don't make it too short, you need enough length in the fringe to tie knots.

Step 4. Cut the fringe. Cut strips about 1-1.5cm wide from the bottom of the t-shirt to the cut line to make a fringe. Make sure you cut through both layers of the t-shirt at the same time so each side matches.

Step 5. Knot the fringe. Tie a double knot in each matching front and back pair of the fringe all the way along the bottom of the t-shirt to enclose the bag. If you have large holes between each fringe pair, you can tie one strand from a fringe pair to a strand from the pair next to it so when you are done, you will have two rows of knots. I hope that makes sense!



PIXELS 2017

PIXELS was revamped in 2017 with a few changes - entries every two months rather than monthly, an external judge for each theme, and a gold, silver, bronze award system for members to aim for awards on a personal level.

Twenty members participated throughout the year and 62 images were judged. Our thanks to our judges during the year - Shannon Conway, Kim McEvoy, Ross Gudgeon, Vanessa Mignon, Karen Willshaw and Jeff and Dawn Mullins.

Congratulations to those who received an award and well done to those who entered consistently and made the Top 5.

GOLD

Isla Cath
Bert De Wit
Chandy De Wit
Tammy Gibbs
Mark Jeffs
Patricia Swallow
Leanne Thompson



BRONZE

Amanda Blanksby
Gary Browne
Bert De Wit
Chandy De Wit
Shannon Earnshaw
Rusty Geller
Mark Jeffs
Danny Messom
Janet O'Brien
Jenny Ough
Joanne Watson



SILVER

Amanda Blanksby
Isla Cath
Bert De Wit
Rusty Geller
Danny Messom
Marjon Phur
Brad Pryde
Leanne Thompson
Joanne Watson



OVERALL RESULTS

First - Bert De Wit
Second - Leanne Thompson
Third - Chandy De Wit
Fourth - Danny Messom
Fifth - Amanda Blanksby



Bert De Wit



Mark Jeffs



Chandy De Wit



Bert De Wit



Leanne Thompson



Isla Cath



Patricia Swallow



Tammy Gibbs



Bert De Wit



Leanne Thompson

Swimming with **GIANTS**

Photographing Humpback whales in the Kingdom of Tonga

By Tammy Gibbs and Amanda Blanksby





It feels odd packing for an underwater photography trip and not packing dive gear. You can't help but think you've forgotten something (or lots of things!) when you're only checking-in one 15kg bag.

That's the situation we found ourselves in when we headed to the Kingdom of Tonga to swim with, and photograph, Humpback whales in October last year. Tonga is one of the few places in the world where you can still swim with whales. It's carefully managed under Government Regulation and can only be done with licensed whale swim operators working under a set of strict whale watching guidelines to ensure whale swimming is sustainable and safe for both whales and humans.

Humpbacks make the long journey north from the cold food-rich waters of Antarctica to the tropical reef-protected waters of Tonga to give birth and breed. The arrival of whales in Tonga from July to October completes a remarkable cycle, as the new calves are born where they were conceived 11 months earlier.

Tonga is around 2000 kilometres north-east of New Zealand, just to the north of the Tropic of Capricorn. The 171 islands that make up Tonga are spread across more than 350,000 square kilometres of the South Pacific Ocean and consist of four main island groups: Tongatapu, Ha'apai, Vava'u and the Niua.

With the warm water beckoning, we left our wetsuits behind and simply packed leggings, rashies, full-foot fins, mask and snorkel. Strokes are not allowed when photographing whales, and of course it's all wide angle, which meant our photography gear weighed a lot less too.

We had booked this trip with Whales Underwater (whalesunderwater.com) led by Canon Master Darren Jew. Darren has been photographing whales in Tonga for the past 17 years which has given him the opportunity to bring together the best local operators in the Vava'u island group.

Being the last group of the 2017 season, there was only six of us (rather than 12) and we were joined by Jasmine Carey who would usually host the second boat of six guests. On arrival, Darren and Jasmine met us at the airport, took us into town for a quick bite to eat and then drove us to Utulei, a small village located on the peninsula across from town and the main harbour.

My Tongan Home, a homestay located directly on the water in Utulei Village, was our base for the next 11 nights. Our host, Tupou, warmly welcomed us into her home and village providing comfortable accommodation and all meals. My Tongan Home has six twin share guest rooms, each with its own ensuite. It's a stunning location with a quiet beach for snorkelling or stand-up paddle boarding, and a beautiful verandah and gardens providing quiet spaces to hang out with the dogs and cats or read a book. A large camera room is available for setting up gear and photo processing.

Our days started with a cooked breakfast at 6am, ready for a 6:45am boat pick-up from our private pontoon. Then the searching for whales began. Some days we spotted their blows, fins or flukes within a few minutes of being on the water. Other days it took hours. Our skipper Ali was a gun at spotting whales, reading their behaviour and getting us into the best position to watch and swim with them. Many of the boats talk to each other over the radio and share time with any whales spotted.

We were very lucky to witness a range of whales and behaviours, despite it being the end of whale season



Amanda Blanksby

– mums with calves on the move, males singing in the hope of attracting a mate, a fast-paced heat-run as a pack of males chase down a female, a male escort trying to separate a calf from its mum, a cruisy group late one afternoon, whales breaching and lunging, and napping mums with curious bubs. On the days when it was tough to find whales, we snorkelled in lagoons and caves.

Each encounter provided different photo opportunities. Sometimes these were over in a flash as you jumped into the water, duck-dived down and quickly shot the whales as they swam past and out of sight in 30 seconds. Other times we'd be floating on the surface for more than 20 minutes, watching mum hold her breath while resting 10-20 metres below the surface, her cheeky calf coming up every 4-5 minutes to breathe and check out the weird people hovering above.

Listening to a whale sing is a truly amazing experience. Dip your ears below the surface and you can not only hear the song loud and clear, you can feel it. Each groan, squeak and whistle of the song reverberates through your whole body, such a wonderful event to witness.

We were on the water most days, except for Sunday. Tonga has a strong tradition of Sunday being a day of rest – in fact it's against Tongan Law for all but an essential few operators to work on Sundays. We attended the

Sunday church service (all spoken and beautifully sung in Tongan) before heading to an open resort for a lazy afternoon of snorkelling and lunch.

Being in the water with Humpbacks was unforgettable. They are big (up to 15 metres and weighing 40+ tonnes!) yet fast and agile, moving with grace and majesty. There's an obvious bond between a mum and a calf - you can see the love, tenderness and intimate connection that they share. The whales look you in the eye with purpose, they are very aware you are there. They are inquisitive and enquiring, yet nervous and hesitant at times. They are social, competitive, playful, and have different personalities.

GETTING THERE

Tonga is not so easy to get to from Perth. We flew Qantas to Melbourne and then Auckland, Air New Zealand from Auckland to Tongatapu, stayed overnight and then flew Real Tonga to Vava'u. On the way home, we flew Fiji Airways to Nadi and then Sydney, stayed overnight and then flew Qantas to Perth. We spent many hours on uncomfortable chairs in airport terminals. Flights run on limited days so check the schedules and plan accordingly.



Tammy Gibbs



Amanda Blanksby



Novice Portfolio 2017

Congratulations Isla Cath who won the WAUPS 2017 Novice Portfolio with this beautifully arranged portfolio of six images. This portfolio competition is sponsored by Perth Scuba and we thank them for their ongoing support. Congrats again Isla!

Golden Snapper

Congratulations Bert de Wit, the WAUPS Golden Snapper for 2017. This award is all about club participation and Bert regularly attends the monthly meetings, enters competitions and joins monthly dives. Well done Bert!



Underwater Tour

Four world-class photographers. Four events. Four cities.
Underwater inspiration, adventure and discovery!

An evening with internationally acclaimed underwater photographers, be inspired by their adventures with stories of discovery from behind the lens. Each professional photographer brings their own photography passion and niche and all are ready to share their bucket lists of adventures with you.

- **Jürgen Freund**, International League of Conservation Photographers
- **Jason Isley**, ScubaZoo, underwater photographer
- **Dr Richard Smith**, Marine biologist, Pygmy Seahorse specialist
- **Darren Jew**, Publisher, Foto Frenzy founder, Canon Master

Meet and chat with the photographers themselves, and mix and mingle with representatives from our world-class aspirational touring partners, SEACAM, Wakatobi, Walindi, Solitude Liveboards & Resorts, Christmas Island, and DAN Asia Pacific.



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ONE NIGHT ONLY**

Thursday 10 May, from 6pm

Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre,
Murdoch University

Tickets \$75, available at
underwatertour.com.au



Before and after: how I developed this photo in Lightroom

by Tammy Gibbs

I took this image at the grain terminal at the January monthly club dive. It was taken with a Nikon D7100, 105mm macro lens, iso 100, f13, 1/320 sec. Here is how I developed it using Lightroom Classic.



1. White balance. The auto white balance on my camera has given this image a green/yellow tinge so I used the white balance eye dropper to

sample a neutral grey part of the image (in this case a neutral colour on the skin of the octopus closest to the camera) and then tweaked the tint and temperature sliders until it looked natural.



2. Crop. I wanted to crop this into a square for posting on Instagram so I kept the top to bottom dimensions as shot and mostly cropped from the right side of the image.

3. Dehaze. Found within the Effects palette of the latest versions of Lightroom, this is a great tool for underwater photos. Increase the dehaze until you are happy with the look. For this image, it's +30.

4. Tone and Presence. In the Basic palette, I tweaked the highlights (-10), shadows (+19), whites (-5), blacks (-7), clarity (+19) and vibrance (+10) until I was happy with the look. How much or little you tweak each slider will depend on the exposure of the image and the look you are trying to achieve.

5. Chromatic aberration. I ticked the 'Remove chromatic aberration' box in the Lens Corrections palette. Chromatic aberration is purple/green fringing around the edges of parts of your image caused by a lens distortion.



6. Spot removal. I used the spot removal tool to remove

the backscatter that I found most distracting. These tend to be the brightest/largest spots as well as those immediately around the subject. In this image, I removed around 20 spots.



7. Local adjustment brush. I wanted to add some texture and contrast to the skin of the octopus so I used the local adjustment brush to paint over the octopus and then added sharpness (+25) and clarity (+10) to the brush settings.



That's it. I spend only a few minutes processing my images and try to keep the images as natural as possible by not pushing the sliders or settings too far. If you are thinking of entering competitions, make sure you check the rules and develop the image within the processing limitations they have set.



PARTING SHOT



Telesto nudibranch (Tritonopsilla sp) laying eggs

by Viv Matson-Larkin

I love diving under Ammunition Jetty, no matter what the conditions, day or night. A wide variety of invertebrate life providing colour, most of the pylons are also covered in incredible sessile life – sponges, ascidians, algae, hydroids and bryozoans, anemones, barnacles and soft corals. The most abundant and beautiful are the Telesto soft corals. A very close look at those and you may find the perfectly camouflaged Telesto nudibranch hiding amongst the stems. For protection from predators their feathery cerata mimic the coral polyps and due to their colour blend in so well they are at times difficult to see, let alone focus your camera on!

On this morning, we saw numerous types of nudibranchs crawling along the sea floor – I was in nudibranch-heaven! Checking out the soft corals, I also spotted some really large Telesto nudibranchs. One in particular was extremely larger than usual. It was not till I was downloading the images I realised that gorgeous nudibranch was in the process of laying eggs. Wow!! I have never seen this particular nudibranch laying eggs before, and now I know why. The ribbon of eggs so tiny and delicate, so transparent in parts, you would not really notice the egg mass on its own unless you had superman x-ray vision!! Mental note to myself – I'm at that age, it's also time to get a prescription lens :-). I thought seeing one of the pale yellow nudibranchs under this jetty was the highlight of that week, but chancing across this sight relegated that find into second place.








WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

waupsnews@gmail.com

The Western Australian Underwater Photographic Society (WAUPS) is a non-profit organisation, which was established in January 1984.

The aims of the Society are:

-  To promote an improvement of underwater photography amongst its members.
-  To promote underwater photography in the community.
-  To encourage an understanding and preservation of the marine environment.
-  To promote an exchange of skills and ideas from within the society and from external bodies.
-  To have fun and enjoy socialising, diving and photography.

WAUPS holds monthly meetings which include guest presenters on a range of photography and diving topics along with a digital show-and-tell of images from members.

We hold regular competitions including an annual day dive shootout, annual open and novice portfolios and image of the year competition, and a range of trips and social events during the year including monthly photo dives.

WAUPS members also get membership to the WA Photographic Federation and can participate in their events and trips.

Anyone interested in underwater photography is welcome any time including all levels of experience.

**WAUPS meetings are conducted at 7:30pm
on the FOURTH TUESDAY of every month.**



Find us on Facebook

www.waups.org.au

